





## Talk About It

If you could travel to any time period in history, which one would it be? Explain your answer.



Find out more about time travel at

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# TIME TRAVEL



# Sci-Fi Prep

by Gary Hillerman

Marge slumped into the apartment.

"Hi. What's the matter?" Her mother could always tell when Marge was upset.

"We have to read a science fiction story for homework tonight," Marge said **glumly**. "Why can't we read a sports story or a story about something that really happened?"

"Well," said her mother, "lots of people think science fiction is interesting. Did you know many ideas that appeared in this type of literature have actually come true at a later time?"

"Like what?" asked Marge. She was **tinkering** with the headset to her cell phone, adjusting the knobs.

"Robots, for example," said her mother. "When science fiction writers such as Isaac Asimov first wrote about robots, they really were imaginary. Today robots exist and are used in lots of ways."


"That's right," said Marge's brother, William, as he entered the kitchen. "In the 1940s, Asimov and another writer set up three rules to control the way robots act in science fiction. The first rule says that robots may not injure a person or allow a person to be harmed if robots can help."

"That's very **honorable**," sniffed Marge. "I'll keep that good behavior in mind if I meet a robot."

She didn't wait to hear what the other rules were. She went to her room and began her homework.




## Vocabulary



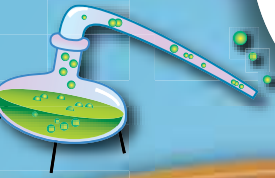
glumly	destination
tinkering	immigrated
honorable	unsteady
formally	fidget



## Thesaurus



**Synonyms** in a thesaurus are not always exactly the same. *Glumly* means "with low spirits because depressed." *Sullenly* means "in a bad mood because angry."



That night Marge had a dream. The door to her room opened and in came a robot. Despite her words to William, she was trembling.

“Good evening, Marjorie,” said the robot, speaking very **formally**, not using her nickname. “I have come to escort you on a special journey.”

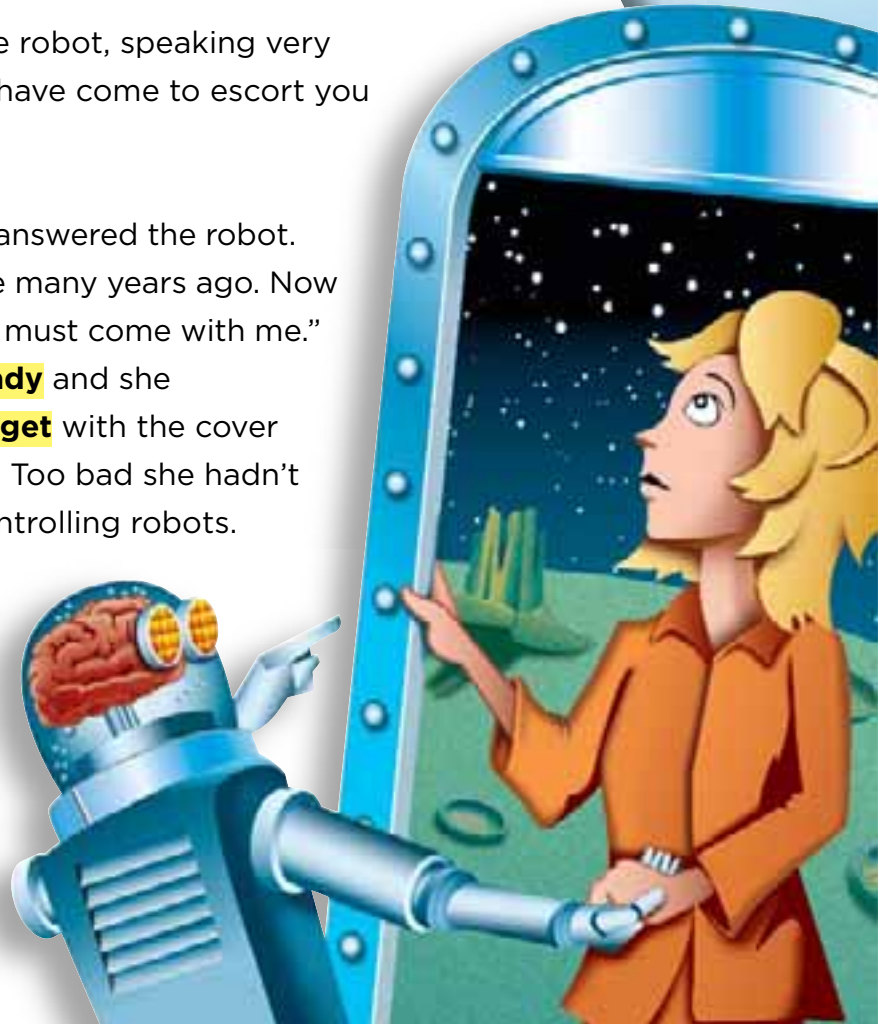
“Where?” whispered Marge.

“Our **destination** is a lost world,” answered the robot. “I left my home and **immigrated** here many years ago. Now it is time for me to return. . . and you must come with me.”

“Why?” Marge’s voice was **unsteady** and she stammered. Her fingers began to **fidget** with the cover on the bed, picking at loose threads. Too bad she hadn’t stayed to hear the other rules for controlling robots.

“Ah, good question,” said the robot. “Tomorrow you will be assigned to write a science fiction story for homework. It’s time you learned more about the subject. Come!”

Slowly, Marge got out of bed and followed the robot into the world of science fiction.



## Reread for Comprehension

### Generate Questions

#### Sequence

Generating, or asking, questions as you read can help you to summarize a story. As you read, ask yourself what the most important events are. Then list in order what happened first, next, and last.

Use a Sequence Chart as you reread “Sci-Fi Prep.”

Event
↓
↓
↓